

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6289**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 100

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 21, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 21, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home Superintendent.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Michael Molnar

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9559

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill eliminates the requirement that the Superintendent of the home be an honorably discharged veteran. The bill establishes a preference for the appointment of an honorably discharged veteran when at least two candidates otherwise meet the requirements for appointment. It eliminates the admissions committee for the home and allows the Superintendent to decide whether to admit a child to the home with the approval of the State Health Commissioner. This bill also raises the maximum that the county may reimburse an interested person for the burial expenses of a veteran from \$125 to \$1,000 and sets the minimum reimbursement amount at \$125.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2002.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill may expand the number of eligible candidates for the Department of Health's consideration when recruiting for the superintendent position.

Currently, the Admissions Committee makes recommendations for placement based upon a comprehensive review of eligible children. The Committee is currently comprised of: the Superintendent of the home or designee, the State Health Commissioner or designee, the Superintendent of the Department of Education or designee, and the Secretary of Family and Social Services or designee.

Elimination of this review committee may limit the number or fit of placements made. This committee was established so that the respective agencies could refer children for placement at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH). This bill allows the Superintendent to accept children for residence with the approval of the State Health Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee. In addition, the old statute required that if space permitted, these children shall be admitted. The new bill changes this provision to "may" be accepted.

*Background:* The ISSCH can serve 196 resident children with the present staff, building occupancy,

programs, and budget. The ISSCH currently averages 93 vacancies for which it is budgeted.

The appropriations for FY 2001 were \$10.4 M with an additional \$2.5 M capital appropriation for the biennium. The table below presents FY 2002 and FY 2003 appropriations. The budgeted per capita expenditures for services provided to children were \$101,101 in FY 2001 (based upon average population). This can be further broken out to a per capita daily budgeted expenditure of \$285.

**Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home Appropriations**

| <b>Fund Source</b> | <b>FY 2001</b> | <b>FY 2002</b> | <b>FY 2003</b> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| General Fund       | \$10,248,879   | \$10,007,202   | \$10,007,202   |
| Dedicated          | \$168,210      | \$171,176      | \$171,176      |
| Total              | \$10,417,089   | \$10,178,378   | \$10,178,378   |

The vacant positions could be utilized by children served by other agencies that need the services offered at the ISSCH. The Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA) currently has an estimated 100 children in need of such services. FSSA has recommended and placed 9 children at the ISSCH since July 1, 2000. Some of the children needing placement are currently in foster care at a cost of \$25 to \$100 per day, while others are in low-restriction residential facilities at a cost of approximately \$100 a day.

The Department of Education has not placed any children at ISSCH. However, the Department places students in other residential settings at a cost of \$200-\$300 per day. Some of these students are institutional Medicaid eligible, in which case the state expense varies.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Under current law, counties may pay up to \$100 for the care of a body and up to \$25 for a burial plot in the event of the death of an active duty service person or a veteran, or their spouse or widow(er). The total payment for care and a burial plot may not exceed \$100.

This bill would allow counties to set the payment as high as \$1,000. The payment would not be tied to any specific service, care, or burial plot purchase. Since this provision would increase the maximum amount that counties may specify for payment in an ordinance, the actual fiscal impact would depend on local action. Burial claims are paid from the county general fund.

*Additional Information:* According to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 15,000 veterans die each year in Indiana.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health, Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** Amy Brown, Legislative Liaison for Family and Social Services Agency, 232-4451; Marilyn Cage, Legislative Liaison for the Indiana State Department of Health, 233-2170; Carol Eby, Assistant Director, Department of Education, (317) 232-0570; Renee Miller, Budget Agency, 232-2971; Bill Jackson, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.